



FRG NEWSLETTER

HHC, 3D BDE, 75TH DIV (TS)

Vol. 1, No. 1

Prepare the Force

October 2002

Multi-Component Brigade Changed Command July 26

A few dozen soldiers gathered on Ware Parade Field July 26 to represent the 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (Training Support) and to welcome Col. Gasper Gulotta as he took command of the brigade from Col. Robert Townsend.

The unit is a multi-component brigade consisting of 700 reserve and active duty soldiers. Its units, located throughout the Midwest, include the 1st Battalion, 291st Aviation Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas; 2nd Bn., 291st Av. Reg., Fort Riley; 3rd Bn., 382nd Logistical Support Reg.; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; 1st Bn., 383rd Reg., Des Moines, Iowa; 2nd Bn., 383rd Reg., Fort Leavenworth, Kan. and 3rd Bn., 383rd Reg., St. Louis, Mo.

"These soldiers are active and citizen soldiers, working to provide theater commanders with trained and ready forces," said Townsend, during his farewell speech. "Our observer controllers are supported by a team of the best government civilians I've ever served with and it's been a privilege and an honor for me to serve with all these great Americans."

Townsend took command of the brigade from Col. George Webb in July 2000. Webb and his predecessor, Col. John Finlay, were both present for the ceremony. Finlay served as the brigade commander from 1995 to 1998 and is currently the inspector general for the North Carolina Army National Guard.

"Bob Townsend is a great soldier and a great friend. I'm here to honor him and what he does," said Webb, Kansas' senior Army advisor for guard.

Maj. Gen. Perry V. Dalby, commander, 75th Division, agreed with Webb. "The most important thing that I take away from this relationship is that, Bob, I count you as my friend and fellow soldier-one that I can call upon anytime for anything," he said, following the traditional passing of colors.

"He's had an immediate positive impact on the readiness of the Army through his great leadership skills. Through his forward thinking, resourcefulness, he has formulated the unit's vision and developed a plan for success for this great brigade," added Dalby.

It's because of these attributes that Dalby selected Townsend to be his Chief of Staff for the 75th Division.

"It takes a man of Bob's caliber to deal with the daily complexities of the Army, the Army Guard, the Army Reserve and this awesome training mission that we have," said Dalby.

Townsend is confident that Gulotta will continue with the division's mission.

"This sad day of relinquishing command is made better knowing that the terrific command team and community supporters you're going to have in Gasper and Joanne Gulotta. I can't imagine any better-qualified people to come after us," he said.

Gulotta, a Master Army Aviator, arrived to Fort Riley from the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. He is a 1981 graduate of the United States Military Academy and holds a Master's of Science Degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California, a Master's of Science Degree from the Nuclear Engineering Department at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Master's of Arts in Strategic Studies from Air University.

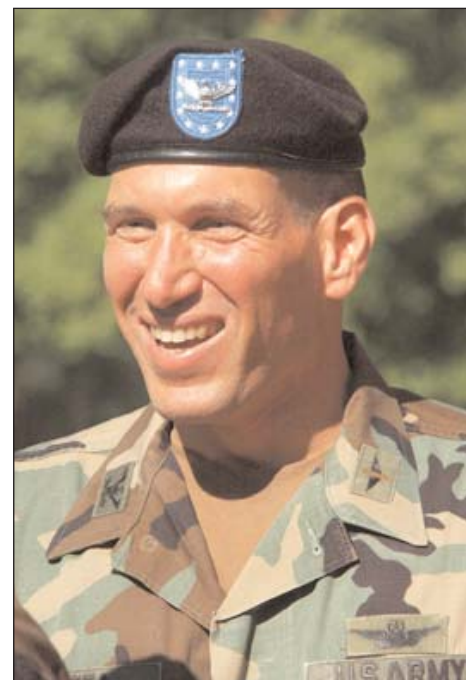
"The troops of the 3rd Brigade, 75th Division standing before us are representatives of thousands of patriotic Americans that are today fighting and winning America's war on terrorism," said Gulotta after taking command of the unit. "Active Duty troops, Reserve component troops and government civilians are all pulling together to accomplish their sacred mission-the

preservation of the American way of life. I can think of no greater time in our history to have the privilege to command our troops than in times such as these."

Dalby welcomed Gulotta and charged him with three tasks. "Number one take care of your soldiers at all times, number two support the mission and number three enjoy what you're doing when you can," he said.

Gulotta said he looks forward to doing his part to achieve his military mission, while also helping his unit make its mark on Fort Riley to make it a better place for our soldiers and families to work and live.

Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Thomas Metz, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech.) and Fort Riley, local community members and neighbors welcomed Gulotta and his family upon their arrival. Joanne was also honored with a welcome ceremony at the Custer House by senior spouses of Fort Riley.



Col. Gasper Gulotta

What do soldiers in this unit do?

The 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (TS) is a multi-component unit composed of Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians and Military Technicians. One of the unit's missions is to provide training support to regional Reserve and National Guard units, and to make sure that those units are fully-prepared to fight and win America's wars.

As reservists and guardsmen in the Midwest are called to active duty, it is the 3-75's responsibility to train them by making sure they are qualified in their basic soldiering skills. The Army will not send soldiers into harm's way who are not fully-prepared to face and conquer the anticipated dangers.

Soldiers of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company do not normally deploy overseas. The mission of the brigade is to prepare other units for deployments. However, because of that mission, Reserve and National Guard HHC soldiers could be called to active duty and all personnel in the company could be required to travel to the subordinate battalions and client units.

The brigade's battalions are located at Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Fort Hood, Texas, and in Des Moines, Iowa and St. Louis, Mo.

The soldiers also provide a very unique response to FEMA Region VII, if there are any events, either natural disasters or other types of disasters, in a four-state region (Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa and Kansas). They provide the linkage between FEMA, the state and the federal government by providing support at either the scene of disaster or the FEMA location.



A rumor is gossip filled with truth and untruth spread from one to another. Because our soldiers conduct missions of a classified nature, family members don't get all of the details and sometimes fill in the blanks themselves.

Spreading untruthful information can invoke unnecessary fear in family members and can risk the safety of your spouse and his or her unit.

If you have a question about the unit, contact Lisa Skinner, the FRG Leader, at 785-784-8046 or skinner@flintheills.com or CPT David Vanover, HHC Commander, at 785-239-2022 or vanoverd@riley.army.mil

MILITARY TERMS

Mobilization: The act of assembling and organizing national resources to support national objectives in time of war or other emergencies. The process by which the Armed Forces or part of them are brought to a state of readiness for war or other national emergency

Deployment: The movement of forces within operational areas, or the positioning of forces into a formation for battle.

Force Protection: Actions taken to prevent or mitigate hostile actions against Department of Defense personnel to include family members, resources, facilities, and critical information.

Power Projection Platform (PPP): An installation that can rapidly and effectively deploy and sustain forces in and from multiple dispersed locations to respond to crises, to contribute to deterrence and to enhance regional stability.

Lane Training: A process for training company-size and smaller units on collective tasks (and prerequisite soldier and leader individual tasks and battle drills) supporting a unit's METL. The process consists of planning, execution, and assessment phases. The execution phase is a battle-focused Lane Training Exercise.

MILITARY ACRONYMS

AAR After Action Review

AC: Active Component

AGR: Active Guard and Reserve

APFT: Army Physical Fitness Test

AT: Annual Training

BFA: Branch Functional Assistance

EAT: Evaluation Assistance Team

FAsT: Forward Assistance Team

FRG: Family Readiness Group

HHC: Headquarters and Headquarters Company

IDT: Inactive Duty Training

LES: Leave and Earnings Statement

MAT: Mobilization Assistance Team

METL: Mission Essential Tasks List

OC/T: Observer Controller/Trainer

OPFOR: Opposing Forces

OPSEC: Operations Security

PT: Physical Training

RC: Reserve Component

SRP: Soldier Readiness Processing

TAM: Training Assessment Model

TDY: Temporary Duty

TS: Training Support

TSIRT: Theater Specific Individual Readiness Training

UA: Unit Assister or Unit Administrator

USAR: United States Army Reserve

View more definitions online at:

www.dtic.mil/doctrine/jel/doddic

View acronyms online at:

www.acronymfinder.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 12 **KSU Concessions**
 Oct. 11-14 Columbus Day (Four-day holiday weekend)
 Oct. 19 **KSU Concessions**
 Oct. 27 1600, Fort Riley Ghost Tours, 239-2022
 Nov. 2 Turkey Shoot
 Nov. 8-11 Veteran's Day (Four-day holiday weekend)
 Nov. 9 **KSU Concessions**
 Nov. 16 **KSU Concessions**
 Nov. 28 Thanksgiving (Four-day holiday weekend)
 Dec. 20 Half-day schedules begin

TRAINING CALENDAR

October Drill

October 19
 Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT)
 Hail and Farewell, Junction City Bowling Alley
 October 20
 1330 HHC Change of Command
 1430 Family Readiness Group Meeting (all invited)
 October 24
 Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP)

November Drill

November 1-3
 OPFOR Challenge

December Drill

December 7
 1100 Unit Holiday Gathering

Meeting Minutes

HHC held its first Family Readiness Group Meeting Sept. 3. The following officers were elected or appointed: Leader-Lisa Skinner, Newsletter Editor-Christie Vanover, Special Events Coordinator-Suzie O'Neill. The secretary and treasurer positions are still vacant.

The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 20 at 2:30 p.m. in the HHC Conference Room. If you have questions about meetings, call Lisa Skinner at 785-784-8046.

FRG UPDATE

KSU Games

Members of the FRG have been working concessions at KSU home football games to help raise money for the Christmas Party and next year's organizational day. All games are already filled up with volunteers. Thanks to those who are volunteering their time to help our soldiers.

Family Information Data Worksheet

To better meet the needs of our soldiers and family members, all soldiers need to fill out a family information data worksheet.

This data, which is for official use only, will be used to (1) contact family members in an emergency, (2) assist in getting information to families, (3) identify topics of interest and (4) provide information to plan activities.

Call Lisa Skinner at 785-784-8046 or visit Sue Hunter in the S-1 section to get a form.

NCO Competed for FORSCOM NCO of the Year

By CSM Dan Elder

A brigade soldier represented the Fifth United States Army at the Forces Command Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competition.

Sgt. 1st Class James O'Hara, an observer controller/trainer assigned to the 2nd Battalion, (AV)(TS), 291st Regiment, traveled to Fort McPherson, Ga., in August to compete in a comprehensive, hands-on competition against FORSCOM's best NCOs.

This annual competition brought together some of the top candidates who vied for the honor of selection at the major command level.

The winner of both the soldier and NCO category will go on to the first ever United States Army Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year

board, to be held later this year.

O'Hara has been assigned to Fort Riley since July 2001.

His climb to excellence started when he competed for and won 3rd Brigade's board in February, held at Fort Leavenworth.

He represented his Brigade in Houston, Texas, in early March, where he beat out candidates from the Division's three other Brigades. In the final week of March, he was pitted against NCOs from across the entire Fifth Army area in a board held in San Antonio.

Among the candidates, representing all Army National Guard states and Army Reserve units west of the Mississippi, along with active duty AC/RC advisors, O'Hara was rated the best and received recognition from

Fifth Army Commander, former 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley Commander, Lt. Gen. Freddy McFarren.

The FORSCOM competition included such areas as leadership and counseling, battle focus training, land navigation, a physical fitness test and other military related categories.

Sgt. Maj. Charles Richardson, 2nd Bn., 291st Reg., Sergeant Major, said O'Hara is a "good solid NCO who knows his job," and is "the type of high quality NCOs we have in this unit."

A recent inductee to the Fort Riley Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, O'Hara is a signal support sergeant who provides training assistance to communication personnel of supported United States Army Reserve and Army National Guard units.

75th Division (TS) discussed future of reserve training

Army transformation for reserve and active forces was the topic of conversation Sept. 27-29 as the 75th Division (Training Support) held its division forum at Fort Riley.

Leaders from battalion level and up, including Maj. Gen. Perry Dalby, commanding general, 75th Div. (TS), came together to impart the vision for how they're going to conduct collective training in the future for reserve forces.

"If you remember back to Desert Storm, there were several guard forces and reserve forces that were ready to go when they were called. They deployed, and they did their mission," said Col. Gasper Gulotta, commander, 3rd Brigade, 75th Div. (TS), Fort Riley. "There were some that were not as ready as they probably could have been. For that reason, divisions like this one were stood up to give some oversight and some resources, integrating active component and reserve component soldiers in one unit."

The division is one of five training support divisions nationwide strategically located to support regional units in the guard and reserve component in the United States.

It's headquartered in Houston, Texas, and is comprised of four brigades located at Fort Riley, Kan., Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Fort Sill, Okla., and in Houston, Texas. The division of 3,000 active and reserve soldiers provides training for a nine-state region.

Key division leaders discussed techniques, tactics and procedures for the Army, as well as classified mobilization issues, to ensure that they were prepared and ready from a training support perspective to support the Army transformation.

The forum came on the heels of a FORSCOM conference held in Fort McCoy, Wisc., where general officers discussed issues of how to train reserve forces better.

"There was a lot of consensus that the work that brigades like this one (the 3rd Brigade) are doing is crucial to successfully train the reserve forces," said Gulotta.

One issue discussed at the FORSCOM level that was carried over to the division forum was the concern that the Army is only resourced to handle priority units, which is a small number of the total Army Reserve units, said Gulotta.

"Because of the dearth of personnel, we can't really train more than that," he said.

Brigade commanders suggested to Dalby that they needed to do their training business differently, so that with the same resources, they could touch more units, he added.

DIVISION FORUM

"The way we do that is to develop a vision that demands that every two years the units conduct a major Combined Training Center-like exercise or training environment for reserve units where they can train up for a two-year period training on individual tasks and collective tasks, including simulation," said Gulotta.

Some training sites for reservists currently include the National Training Center and Fort Riley. "Fort Riley is becoming more and more a great place to train reserve soldiers," said Gulotta.

In Fiscal Year 2001, Fort Riley conducted annual and weekend reserve training for 32,396 soldiers, and in Fiscal Year 2002, it increased its training through Operation Hickory Sting.

"For the typical units on Fort Riley, the main job of the soldiers and the noncommissioned officers is to prepare their unit for war. We (3rd Brigade) don't do that. We don't prepare ourselves for war...We prepare hundreds of units for war," said Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Elder, command sergeant major, 3rd Brig., 75th Div. (TS).

"We have a very unique mission that encompasses a lot of different things from mobilization to training to emergency support and simulation exercis-

es," he added.

To polish their missions, brigade commanders prepared a draft training vision, which they presented to Dalby and his staff during the forum. It included an enhanced training exercise, "Dependable Focus," designed to reach non-priority units.

It involves bringing entire training battalions together with multiple Reserve and National Guard units who perform combat support and combat service support missions, said Gulotta.

By capitalizing on resources, we'll take advantage of the overhead and apply it to numerous units, he added.

The new training vision is now being staffed and is awaiting approval. "We in the training support business recognize that we must be synchronized with the transformation so that our training techniques remain relevant," said Gulotta.

He added that the conference was a tremendous success. "We each left with a renewed sense of belonging to the 75th Division, of being part of something bigger than ourselves in the Army, and established new relationships that will impact the way we train our supported units over the coming years."

"The Army field manual on leadership says that leadership is the crucial element to combat power. It's not maneuver. It's not fire support...It's leadership, and so face-to-face leadership where a commander gets on the ground with his fellow commanders with his subordinate commanders, looks them in the eye, tells them what he expects, that is the crucial element of combat power. Maj. Gen. Dalby did that this last weekend with his brigade commanders, his battalion commanders and his sergeants major," said Gulotta.

"One of the key elements is to ensure that, as the key leaders of this division, we're focused on what it is that we need to focus on to ensure that the training readiness of all of the units in the Army are ready to go and prepared to go if we're mobilized," said Dalby.

Soldier, family issues discussed at division forum

Military family members from across the Midwest gathered in September at the 75th Division (Training Support) Forum on Fort Riley to discuss issues that affected their family readiness.

"We want to make sure that family readiness is embedded in our philosophy because when families are taken care of, soldier's readiness improves," said Maj. Gen. Perry Dalby, commanding general, 75th Div. (TS). "We want to make sure the family readiness program in this division is a key component of our overall training strategy."

The division's units are spread over the western United States; therefore, soldiers and families don't have access to active duty installations to draw upon services like the hospital, Post Exchange or commissary.

"We find that by getting together in this type of forum and discussing some of those aspects of it, we can much better appreciate the requirements and what needs to be a good family supporter of Army transformation," said Dalby.

Some issues brought up by family members included commissary usage, access to legal and community services and pay compensation. Currently, reservists are only allowed to shop at the commissary 24 times per year, if they are not on orders. And, they are not reimbursed for travel or lodging pay on drill weekends.

Another issue addressed was the

lack of information flow, and as units deploy, communication is essential, said Col. Gasper Gulotta, commander, 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (TS).

The 75th Division is not one that deploys overseas, however they do have the mission to mobilize soldiers to a power projection platform like Fort Riley, taking them away from their hometowns, he said.

"The possibility of moving our troops around is quite a real one. You can just look at the headlines today to see that a mobilization is possible, and our soldiers would be mobilized accordingly. They most likely would be moved within the continental U.S., but still, while their families are hundreds of miles away, their families have to deal with day-to-day issues," said Gulotta.

"The need to have a rear detachment commander is still there, and the need to have families that are ready and know how to contact others is necessary. This is a primary issue on the division commander's mind," said Gulotta.

The family members issues were addressed at the end of the forum to Dalby who promised to review the issues that could be changed at division level and to forward on issues that needed to be addressed at a higher level.

In addition to roundtable discussions, family members were also invited to participate in a Friday night

Main Family Issues

- Family information isn't coming through the chain of command to volunteers.
- Sponsorship program for family members is broken.
- Reservist compensation for: drill weekend, travel, room and board and childcare.
- Pay differential: civilian vs. Reserve pay (179 plus days).
- Job protection at the state level.
- Repayment of voluntary separation at retirement from Reserve service.
- Access to ACS.
- Access to active duty JAG.

Address your concerns to your local congressman. Visit www.house.gov

social, formal dining out and division run. "These are traditional military events that strengthen this part of the Army. Likewise, when you have the spouses here and you incorporate them in the family readiness group training, you make them feel like part of the team, and we've got to do that over and over," said Gulotta.

"The spouses left with a renewed sense of urgency that this is something that they need to do. They need to tighten up their programs. Great soldiers come out of great families," he said.



**K
S
U** G
A
M
E
S



What would you like to see in the next newsletter? Email your ideas, photos or stories to Christie Vanover at christie.vanover@us.army.mil

OPFOR Challenge

By PFC Jamie Bender

The 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (Training Support) will hold its annual Opposing Forces Challenge Nov. 1-3, to test the skills of the brigade's OPFOR teams.

"The OPFOR challenge is a team building competition that challenges reserve soldiers to complete critical tasks needed to master their job," said Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Elder, 3rd Bde., 75th Div.

"It is a two and a half day event conducted under field conditions that tax the soldiers' field craft skills," he said.

Some of the tasks the soldiers will face are land navigation, engaging a target with the multiple integrated laser engagement system, an obstacle course and small unit infantry tactics, such as ambushes. The challenge culminates in an eight-mile road march that must be completed as a team.

The four soldier teams will be awarded prizes such as a situational kit, containing props for the different scenarios the soldiers will carry out, said Elder. The kit includes a sniper suit, foreign military uniform, a moulage kit, containing simulated injuries and a host nation police kit. OPFOR soldiers will also deal with civilians on the battlefield scenarios.

The planning for this year's OPFOR challenge began at the end of last year's challenge, Elder said. "For us, the planning began out about six months out. For the reservists, they develop their training plans throughout the year. Their training goes together exactly with their job skills, and this competition is a tool to

assist them to become more proficient."

Elder explained that Training Support, which facilitates the OPFOR Challenge, comes from a concept conceived in March 1997. The mission of Training Support XXI is to conduct collective training for National Guard and Reserve units. It integrates readiness groups, training support battalions and Army Reserve exercise divisions, Elder said. Divided into five divisions, training support falls under the command and control of First Army, east of the Mississippi, and Fifth Army, to the west.

"Our job is to train reserve and guard members in a mentorship role," said Elder. "We provide a unit assistance visit to help make training techniques more effective. We are observer and controller trainers for field exercises, and by planning, resourcing and executing high-intensity training at field sites throughout the United States, the command is presented with subject matter experts, observers who can independently provide an objective review of the commander's training."

The OPFOR Challenge is reserve units annual test on what they have learned.

The teams at this year's OPFOR Challenge will score points in five different areas such as lane training exercise, physical fitness, engaging targets with laser equipped weapons, a road march and land navigation. The team with the most points is designated the winner. The winning team will take home a streamer, a trophy and most importantly, the bragging rights, Elder said.



Zackery Wilson and his dad Lt. Col. Thomas Wilson, Brigade S-3, appeared in lights on Broadway Sept. 29 as part of the National Down Syndrome Society's awareness campaign to demonstrate that people with Down Syndrome can be successful in community activities, education and employment.

A photo of Zackery, 4, who has Down Syndrome, was selected from almost a thousand entries, and approximately 200 appeared in a video production, "Steps for a Brighter Tomorrow." Through the series of 200 photos, the show explored what things will make a brighter tomorrow: hope, inclusion, laughter, family, friends and acceptance.

This is fourth time Zackery has appeared in the Times Square production.

COMMANDER'S O L U M N

This is the first of what I hope will be a quarterly company FRG newsletter designed to let you and your families know what has happened in the past quarter and what is coming up in the next few months. It will be published in October, January, April and July.

I hope to see you all at the change of command and FRG meeting on Oct. 20. Children are welcome, and remember the FRG is for soldiers, civilians and their families.

We plan to discuss the upcoming holiday gathering at the next meeting. Bring your ideas!

I also would like to congratulate two outstanding, recently-promoted soldiers from the S-1 section. Staff Sgt. James Hester was named the Brigade NCO of the Quarter and Spec. Taylor was named the Brigade Soldier of the Quarter.

DAVID L. VANOVER
CPT, AG
Commanding

This newsletter is published by the HHC, 3rd Brig., 75th Div. FRG to provide information for soldiers and their families. Articles and information contained in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the Department of Army policy or endorsement.